FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MARTINEZ ON ATTACKS ON PRESS, LOPEZ REGA

PY192209 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1132 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- Vice President Victor Martinez, who today returned from Sweden where he attended the funeral of late Prime Minister Olof Palme, said that the government condemns all types of violence, particularly if aimed against the press, because this reveals an attempt to muffle or intimidate the media. Martinez, who made this statement upon arriving at Ezeiza International Airport at 0635, added that the government deplores such actions (clearly alluding to the attacks on the newspaper CRONICA and on television Channel 13) and will do everything in its power to investigate and shed light on the attacks.

Asked about what will happen after former Social Welfare Minister Jose Lopez Rega is extradited, Martinez replied that he will be brought to court to answer charges of misappropriation, illegal association, and malfeasance. Therefore, he will have to appear in court, like any other Argentine citizen, to answer those charges and to clarify his alleged involvement.

Concerning the meeting that he held with the Group of Six, Martinez explained that a new meeting has been scheduled for April in Stockholm and that the group acknowledged receipt of two notes. One of the notes is from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The other one is an answer from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to a note from the Group of Six. The group will analyze the two documents, he explained. Finally, asked whether there is a consensus over nuclear disarmament, Martinez said that there is such a consensus and that even though we do not expect anything spectacular, we have not lost all hope. We should recall that the two superpowers have immediately answered a note that we sent to them, he concluded.

MONTONEROS-BACKED PERONIST FACTION HOLDS RALLY

PY172234 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (EFE) -- The names of former leaders of the Montoneros subversive movement were mentioned today in the first Montoneros public rally held in this capital since the 1976 military coup. Revolutionary Peronism (PR), a faction of the Justicialist (Peronist) Party -- the major opposition force in Argentina -- today staged its first rally.

At the rally, which was held in a downtown plaza and attended by approximately 4,000 people, the leaders of the new Peronist faction harshly criticized the economic policy of President Raul Alfonsin's government. Letters of support sent by Montoneros leader Mario Firmenich from his jail cell and from abroad by former Montoneros members Fernando Vaca Narvaja and Roberto Perdia, all of them members of the PR leadership, were read during the rally. The rally was attended mostly by young people who chanted slogans against President Alfonsin and in support of the Montoneros terrorist organization.

Fermenich, who is being held at a public jail awaiting trial on criminal charges (including murder), said in his message that the Radical Civic Union -- the ruling party -- had promised that with the advent of democracy [sentence as received]. "Yet, after 2 years in the government," Fermenich said, "it has become evident that the democratic transition has not been instrumental in solving any of these problems."

In a message read by an announcer, Firmenich noted that the PR is a "completely legal" organization and added: "Let no one harbor any doubt; this organization does not violate any article of the Penal Code." After stating that "we have never been provocateurs and we are not going to start now," Firmenich said: "No government or ruler can find a magic formula to overcome this dilemma."

Vaca Narvaja and Perdia, who are wanted by the Argentine courts, said in their message: "We are not in any hurry; we are going to wait as long as necessary for the people to defeat oligarchy." They added: "As Montoneros members and Peronists, we fully endorse every objective sought by the workers." In this regard, Peronist youth leader Pablo Unamuno, one of the speakers at the rally, reiterated the PR's support for the demands of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and noted that "the traditional Peronist Youth-workers bloc can be thus rebuilt."

SPANISH DEFENSE OFFICIAL BEGINS VISIT

PY180001 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1734 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (DYN) -- Spanish Under Secretary of Defense Gustavo Suarez Pertierra today stressed that his country's participation in NATO, which was assured by the recent plebiscite, will consolidate Spain's relations with the Latin American countries in security and other matters. Suarez today began his official activities in Argentina with a meeting with Defense Minister German Lopez and afterward with a meeting with Air Force Lieutenant General Teodoro Waldner, chief of the Joint Staff.

In this respect, the Spanish official revealed that Felipe Gonzalez' socialist government has extended an invitation to German Lopez to visit Madrid in the near future. Suarez also explained that during this visit he will not submit to the Argentine Government any specific proposals regarding bilateral cooperation but he hopes that after more bilateral contacts there will be the chance "to draft" agreements regarding defense production and the exchange of technology.

Regarding the results of the recent plebiscite on whether Spain would remain in NATO, and its repercussions on Spain's relations with Latin America, he stressed that "there will be no changes, on the contrary, they will be consolidated by our full incorporation into Europe in the areas of security and economy." On the center-right victory in the French legislative elections, Suarez stated that it would be "a very serious" matter if there were negative changes, taking into account the agreements that have been achieved in the area of terrorism and in various economic aspects. Suarez will give a lecture this afternoon at the National Defense School. Tomorrow he will continue his meetings with defense officials and with his Argentine colleague, Horacio Jaunarena, and he will visit the headquarters of Military Industries. Finally, on 21 March he will travel to Iguazu Falls for a few hours and he will close his visit with a meeting on Friday night at the Spanish Embassy in Buenos Aires.

ALAN GARCIA PRESS CONFERENCE DETAILED

PY192241 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 17 Mar 86 pp 2, 3

[Excerpts] After his 3-day visit to Argentina, Peruvian President Alan Garcia said he does not believe in creating a debtors club to face, together with all the countries of the continent, the foreign debt problem. He said that Latin America is not a club and that "we (the regional countries) are not members but part of a single entity."

He made these statements in Cordoba, "the land of university reform," he said recalling the 1918 movement. He rejected the possibility of forming a debtors club and qualified such an action as "deforming and bowing to certain interests." He added that "we are part of a same nation, therefore, whether we like it or not, we have a common historic commitment to free our people from imperialism."

During a press conference given while in Buenos Aires, Alan Garcia again expressed his rejection of the IMF, advocated the unity of Latin American democracies to jointly face the burdensome problem of the foreign debt, and stressed that "either one is in favor of imperialism or against it."

During the nearly 1-hour press conference Garcia revealed that he and Alfonsin decided to create a technical commission to study the possibility of establishing a railway corridor to link northeastern Argentina with Southern Peru through Bolivia. He also reiterated his solidarity with Nicaragua in the case of an armed attack by the United States and stressed that Peru is willing to "endure any pressure to maintain its economic policy" as well as to prevent the renegotiation of the $14-billion foreign debt from "affecting the welfare and development of the Peruvian people."

However, President Garcia avoided giving a direct answer when asked whether the Argentine Government had promised to help Peru in case of an eventual economic boycott for having ignored the IMF mediation. He was also asked if he and President Alfonsin had considered the possibility of sponsoring the creation of a regional organization to replace the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty [TIAR], excluding the United States. Replying to these two questions he said "the subject of my talks with President Alfonsin is expressed in our joint declaration," signed on 15 March.

AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DISCUSSED

PY190239 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0232 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (EFE) -- According to newspaper reports from this capital, Canada, Brazil, and the United States are interested in carrying out joint programs with Argentina to build war and commercial airplanes. The newspaper LA RAZON reports that the Argentine authorities have received proposals that include, among other things, building a new version of the A4B and A4C fighter planes used in the Malvinas Islands war. This project was proposed by the U.S. McDonnell Douglas Corporation, and it envisions the joint manufacture of the Douglas A4M, a subsonic fighter-bomber with a 5-ton capacity, a speed of 550 knots and the ability for midair refueling.

The newspaper report also says that a Brazilian Aeronautics Company [Embraer] delegation will arrive in Argentina on 24 March to begin a project to build a short-distance commercial plane. This project, known as Parana, foresees the binational construction of a 19-seat turboprop airplane with a speed of 500 km/h and a pressurized cabin. According to the Embraer studies revealed by the newspaper, the two countries plan to build 300 of these airplanes at a cost of $4 million each over the next 8 years.

The newspaper article also reports that the Canadian company Havilland is interested in participating in a project to build a 36-seat commercial airplane that will be a version of its current Dash 8 model.

The daily assures that the Argentine military aircraft factory located in Cordoba, 800 km northeast of Buenos Aires, has received other proposals for the joint construction of warplanes. In this sense, it mentions the proposal of the U.S. firm Sikorsky that wishes to build with Argentina and Brazil a new naval attack model. LA RAZON states that this proposal was allegedly rejected since the U.S. manufacturer demands as a condition that these new units be incorporated into the armies of the two countries "as a way to promote sales."

1985 TRADE FIGURES SHOW INCREASED SURPLUS

PY151935 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 March 86 p 3

[Text] (DYN) -- The balance of trade surplus was 4.287 billion dollars in the first 11 months of 1985, 24.3 percent ahead of 1984 levels, the National Statistics Institute (INDEC) announced on Tuesday night. The surplus was the result of 7.812 billion dollars worth of exports, 2.4 percent more than in 1984, and 3.525 billion dollars of imports, 15.6 percent down on 1984. The November surplus was 248 million dollars as against 47 million dollars in November, 1984, with 564 million dollars worth of exports and 316 million of imports.

BRIEFS

POLAND OPENS CREDIT LINE -- Buenos Aires, 12 Mar (TELAM) -- The Central Bank of the Argentine Republic has opened a $40-million credit line for the Central Bank of Poland to finance the purchase of Argentine nontraditional exportable goods. At the same time the Polish Central Bank has opened a credit line for the Argentine Central Bank for the same amount which is earmarked to finance 80 to 85 percent of the goods exported by Argentina. This agreement has a duration of 3 years and seeks a balanced trade exchange between the two countries for the 1985-1987 period. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0259 GMT 12 Mar 86 PY]

FRENCH DEFENSE AGREEMENT -- Buenos Aires, 12 Mar (NA) -- Defense Minister German Lopez today signed an agreement that had previously been signed by his French counterpart Paul Quiles forming a joint commission for technical-scientific cooperation regarding defense equipment. The agreement has no time limit and provides for annual meetings to program long and medium-term activities. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 12 Mar 86 PY]

COST OF LIVING INDEX -- NA-DYN -- The cost of living went up 1.7 percent last month, the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) announced last night, thus bringing inflation for this year up to 4.8 percent. Prices rose 0.8 percent at wholesale level, while the cost of construction went up 0.3 percent. Inflation over the last 12 months is now running at 236.8 percent, 227.5 percent, and 180.4 percent for retail and wholesale prices and construction, respectively. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Mar 86 p 1 PY]

HIGHER IMPORT TARIFFS -- DYN -- The government on Wednesday suspended all preferential tariffs on electronics imports from Latin American Integration Association [ALADI] countries for one uear, justifying this move with the need to give domestic industry a head start. Brazilian, Chilean, Mexican and Uruguayan electronics imports will now have to pay import duties of up to 90 percent. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Mar 86 p 3 PY]

ATTORNEY REPORTS GARCIA MEZA LIVING IN MONTEVIDEO

PY182056 Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Jaime Bravo Burgoa, the attorney of General Luis Garcia Meza, reported today in Sucre, south of La Paz, that Gen Garcia Meza, who was the de facto Bolivian president from 1980 to 1981, is currently residing in Montevideo because he lacks the necessary guarantees to live in Bolivia.

Bravo Burgoa, who is Garcia Meza's defense attorney in the court action being pursued by the Bolivian Congress, made this statement when he appreared in Sucre, the seat of the Supreme Court of Justice, to follow up on the court proceedings. Garcia Meza, along with his closest aides -- among them former Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez -- is being charged with murder, violating the Constitution, unlawful association for criminal purposes, misappropriation, and systematically violating individual and social rights.

Court Summons Garcia Meza

PY192020 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1527 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The Bolivian Supreme Court has summoned former President Luis Garcia Meza and former Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez for questioning. The Court has charged them with "political crimes and attacks against the state economy."

The Bolivian Congress has asked the Supreme Court to prosecute the leaders of the military coup of 17 July 1980 which ousted President Lidia Gueiler Tejada and established a dictatorship in the country.

The former dictator and his aides are charged with the murders of Catholic priest Father Luis Espinal Camps, socialist leader Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, labor union leader Gualberto Vega Carlos Flores, and 15 members of the executive board of the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR).

The Supreme Court has estalbished that those on trial shall be questioned personally and warned that failing to appear for the questioning will be considered contempt of court.

Approximately 60 other people involved in the military coup are also being prosecuted, among them the former chief of the Intelligence Service, former ministers, and Armed Forces generals. The majority of the Bolivian Congress has approved these trials, although many of those involved now hold seats in Congress as Democratic Nationalist Action (ADN) congressmen.

BRIEFS

MNR WEEKLY REAPPEARS -- Carlos Ponce Sanjinez, permanent secretary of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] political committee, has reported that the weekly EN MARCHA, the official MNR publication, has reappeared after a brief recess. The 35-year-old publication is run by Gerardo Irusta, a well-known journalist. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 86 PY]

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN REFUTES REAGAN COMMENTS

PY191301 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The National Service for Intelligence [SNI] guarantees that there is no Sandinist guerrilla activity in Brazil. The Brazilian Government has denied that Sandinist guerrillas are operating inside the country. According to Government House spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita, the recent statements U.S. President Ronald Reagan made are unfounded.

It is probable that the U.S. State Department will clarify today the statement by President Reagan, who included Brazil among the countries that receive Sandinist military aid and that allow guerrilla activities in their territory.

EDITORIAL CALLS REAGAN SPEECH 'CHILDISH'

PY192147 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Mar 86 p 2

[Editorial: "Childish Speech"]

[Text] By the elementary character of its arguments, the speech by President Ronald Reagan Sunday night, in an attempt to win over public opinion and convince Congress of the need for $100 million to assist the Sandinists, demonstrated once again the irrationality of the U.S. Strategy in Central American conflicts.

Over a nationwide television network, Reagan affirmed that should the two houses of Congress refuse to finance the Nicaraguan contras, the United States would be letting "the malignant Managuan tumor grow until it becomes a mortal threat to the hemisphere." In an effort to drive his apprehensions home, the U.S. President resorted to maps of the Americas to show the possible advances of communism in the continent from its base in Nicaragua. His speech became inconsistent and ridiculour when, in giving examples of revolution exported by the Sandinists, Reagan cited Brazil, Chile, and Argentina as countries whose "radicals" may have already received arms from Nicaragua.

Besides the childishness of Reagan's speech, one cannot fail to recognize in his rhetoric and attitude a dangerous similarity to the U.S. policy toward the new Cuban regime in the 1960s. The same isolation applied then to the government of Fidel Castro is today applied to the Sandinist regime. As it was yesterday with Cuba, the most immediate consequence of that policy today is a gradual and irretrievable rapproachement of Nicaragua with the Soviet Union, which thus begins to control governments that originally came to power with the purpose of overcoming a situation of economic backwardness and political despotism.

It is therefore hard to understand why President Reagan should prefer the military way -- even if indirectly so far -- to solve the Central American problem, of which Nicaragua is the most sensitive aspect. The advance of totalitarian elements within the Sandinist regime is admittedly obvious but, nevertheless, the encouragement of an armed confrontation does not help the consolidation of democracy in the continent. The people of Nicaragua did not overthrow the bloody Somozist regime to replace it with a civil war situation or with a dictatorship of a different sort.

The speech revealed good sense only when Reagan affirmed that history will judge the U.S. Congress' option for approval of financial assistance to the contras. This will inexorably be made by history, which has already passed judgment on frustrating episodes such as the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Vietnam war.

WEAPONS CONFISCATED FROM SEIZED PANAMANIAN SHIP

PY191348 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The six tons of military equipment and weapons seized from the Panamanian-flag carrier Nobistor were taken to the Federal Police station in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. Meanwhile, police officer Ivan Campos has stated that there is still not enough information to report on the origin of the [word indistinct] automatic guns, machine guns, rifles, and grenades. Regarding the 18 crew members, 10 of them have been questioned by the Federal Police, who consider their testimonies contradictory.

COMPUTER GROUP PLANS RESPONSE TO U.S. SURVEY

PY190014 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Mar 86 p 17

[Text] Brasilia -- The informatics law will not be investigated by the U.S. Commerce Department alone. Now the matter will also be discussed through diplomatic and political channels, since the U.S. State Department has decided to perform a confidential market survey. This was reported by the managers of the Brazilian Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturer's Association [Abicomp], who on 14 March met with Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer and with Foreign Ministry General Secretary Paulo Tarso Felxa de Lima for an initial evaluation of this new situation. According to Abicomp President Antonio Pimentel Besquita, "the situation is not good for Brazil." However, he believes that the difficulties will be resolved.

When President Ronald Reagan first requested an investigation of the informatics law based on Article 301 of the Trade Act (U.S. Trade Law), alleging that the Brazilian Government is practicing protectionism, Abicomp started to move to defend its interests in the United States, as a consultant before the USTR [as published] (Department of Commerce). The process will end by September, and until then Abicomp is trying to find all the mechanisms it can to prevent any retaliation against its interests by the U.S. Government. "The U.S. Government is very strong and it knows how to express its force," Mesquita said.

MINISTERS DEPART FOR VISIT TO ANTARCTICA

PY180201 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] For the first time, Brazilian ministers are going to visit the Antarctic. Navy Minister Admiral Henrique Saboya, Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, and Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer today left from Porto Alegre for Punta Arenas, Chile, from where they will leave tomorrow for the Antarctic. The ministers will fly in a Brazilian Air Force plane to the Chilean Base (Mass), where they will board a Brazilian helicopter that will transport them to the Brazilian Base Comandante Ferraz.

Minister Henrique Saboya stated in Porto Alegre that the Brazilian program for the Antarctic is being fulfilled normally. He explained that the fact that a group of Brazilian military officers and civilians spent the winter season at Comandante Ferraz Base is a sign of the materialization of the Brazilian Government's plans for the Antarctic.

Abreu Sodre Comments on Trip

PY190012 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has given an exclusive interview to this radio station. Sodre and the ministers of the Navy and science and technology are visiting the Antarctic. We have details on this visit from our station in Punta Arenas.

[Begin relay] The foreign minister has emphasized the excellent relations between Brazil and Chile. He added that his presence in Punta Arenas and in the Antarctic is one way of strengthening the interest of his country in an area that he called the sixth continent. Abreu Sodre said that he supports the internationalization of the work in the Antarctic for its eventual exploitation in an environment of peace for the benefit of the participating countries. The foreign minister emphasized the support our country gives to the Brazilian presence in the Antarctic. Brazilian ships use Punta Arenas as their primary port and the Chilean installations in the Antarctic as points of support for their scientific tasks.

This is the interview with the foreign minister here in Punta Arenas.

[Begin recording] [Sodre] This is a problem that has created concern not only among the countries of the Americas but among all countries of the world. The Antarctic is a challenge, a challenge governed by the principles of peace. We want the sixth continent to be a continent of justice, work, and exploration, but above all we want the principles of understanding, peace, and harmony to prevail. The sixth continent is an example of how nations can carry out joint projects for the benefit of humanity. It is with this spirit that we who represent the Foreign Ministry greet the Chilean people, giving as an example the Antractic as the hope for the unity of all people in favor of peace. We want to explore it in favor of human wealth and not destruction. It is with this spirit that a I have returned to Chile, a country I like and where I have many friends.

[Unidentified reporter] Specifically, what is Brazil doing to successfully fulfill your proposals?

[Sodre] We have four expeditions, and we are here with the ministers of the Navy and science and technology representing the government. We wish to join the other nations, like Chile, which are already here working for internationalization; scientific research, and undersanding among people. [end recording]

Sodre also referred to the human rights situation, saying that his country has always respected the basic principles of human rights. He also said that the creditor countries of the Third World should set realistic interest rates so that the debtor countries can pay their debts. Sodre is accompanied by Navy Minister Henrique Saboya and Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer. The high-level Brazilian delegation was welcomed by Magallanes regional officials, headed by acting Intendent General Jaime Gonzalez Vergara. The delegation is getting ready to travel to the FACh [Chilean Air Force] Teniente (Marsh) base on 19 March if weather conditions are good. They are expected to return to the Chilean capital in 3 days. [end relay]

PAPER VIEWS PT STANCE ON ECONOMIC PACKAGE

PY191547 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "The Best is Better"]

[Text] Speaking during his party's annual program over a national radio and television network, PT [Workers Party] President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva [Lula] on 17 March said that he sincerely hopes the economic reform will succeed. At the same time, he upheld his right to demand salary hikes to help the workers. Lula appealed to the people to cooperate with the price freeze. His party's and his own resolute support for this initiative undoubtedly will strengthen the government's and the people's efforts to achieve economic stability.

Even though he said that the anti-inflationary package reveals a clearly political intention on the part of the government in connection with the national constituent assembly that will convene in November 1986, Lula stressed that, out of honesty and patriotism, he had to admit that a successful attempt to curb inflation will benefit all workers. It was clear that moderation was the keynote of the PT program, which by technical standards was a good performance. Only one of the panelists disrupted the atmosphere of tranquility by advocating an interventionist and even a subversive measure. He proposed the organization of price control committees in factories and large companies. The proposal, which did not receive much support from the other panelists, died when Lula said that the price freeze had been a victory for the workers.

But Lula went even further by saying that his party "does not endorse the slogan the worst is better." According to him, it is unquestionable that the economic package has rekindled the people's hopes for a better future. "And no one can live without hope," he stressed. The PT and its president primarily criticized the salary issue. Despite the government's comprehensive, clear, and repeated explanations, they insisted that "by freezing prices at their highest level and salaries at their average level," the government has harmed workers, particularly those who earn the minimum salary.

The PT also disagreed with a proposal by Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto regarding free bargaining between employers and employees. Lula wants to undermine this proposal because, according to it, the "workers must previously negotiate the right to go on strike." However, Lula failed to recall that both issues are still being negotiated and that any agreement will depend on the good will and imagination of all the parties involved. The PT also criticized the subsidies for unemployed workers, particularly regarding the requirements that workers must meet to receive the subsidy. The PT maintains that if workers are to submit their labor cards when applying for a subsidy, 25 percent of the Brazilian work force will be ineligible because they do not have labor cards. And what about the remaining 75 percent of potentially eligible workers who can receive the subsidy if they lose their jobs?

But the most remarkable feature of the PT program was Lula's frankness. He did not withdraw the proposals of his party, but he openly supported the government's economic package. He also stated that he is not the kind of person who takes the opposite side without good reasons "just to be on the opposite side." This was his message to the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] and to its leader.

ANGRA-I NUCLEAR PLANT TO RESUME SERVICE IN MAY

PY191559 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 March 86 p 26

[Text] The Angra-I nuclear power plant, which has not been operating since January, will resume operations at the end of May. Marcio Costa, director of the nuclear section of the Furnas Electrical Power Plants, has reported that by then one-third of the burnt fuel will have been replaced, as well as the 48,000 steam condenser tubes that had suffered sea water corrosion problems. The remaining equipment will also have been checked and repaired. Costa hopes that these will be the last large-scale repairs to be made in the plant, which will then be technically and operationally capable to perform at full capacity with total security. The cost of the repairs and general check-up will be $50 million, $30 million of which will be paid for fuel.

The Angra-I plant must start operating soon in order to reduce the load on the Santa Cruze thermoelectric plant, which, as of April, will have to operate at full capacity to meet the energy demands of the southeastern region. According to the director, the fuel cost at the thermoelectric plant is $160 million per year, while the fuel cost at the Angra-I plant is $30 million.

PLANNING MINISTER SEEKS MORE IDB LOANS

PY200154 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Planning Minister Joao Sayad has disclosed that Brazil will seek more resources from the IDB to finance its balance of payments. Next Saturday, 22 March, Minister Sayad will represent the Brazilian Government at the IDB governors' annual meeting. A total of 43 countries will take part in this meeting to be held in Costa Rica. Brazil intends to obtain IDB loans at interest rates lower than those granted by commercial banks. During 1986 Brazil is supposed to receive IDB loans for approximately $500 million. Minister Sayad intends to increase this sum.

BRIEFS

REPORT ON AIDS -- According to the latest reports issued by the Health Ministry, a total of 625 cases of AIDS have been detected in Brazil so far, of which 304 patients have already died. Of this total 74 percent has been detected in Sao Paulo State and 14 percent in Rio de Janeiro. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Mar 86 p 5 PY]

JOURNALISTS QUESTION RIGHTS COMMUNIQUE

PY192251 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Relay from the Foreign Ministry by Jose Francisco]

[Excerpt] Journalists accredited to the Foreign Ministry have voiced their surprise and displeasure over the fact that last night Dinacos [National Social Communications Agency] issued a communique referring to the human rights issue.

The incident began last Monday, 17 March, when Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle informed the journalists accredited to his ministry that he would release some information at noon. However, at noon he said he would not make any statements but would issue a communique, in writing, referring to the human rights report approved by the United Nations and the draft resolution submitted by the United States. The communique was not released on Monday, and it was then said that it would be released on Tuesday.

At noon yesterday spokesman Pablo Valdes disclosed that the president had still not approved the document and that it was expected that it would be ready in the afternoon. At approximately 1700 yesterday, Valdes said that the declaration would be released today. However, late last night Dinacos issued a communique which was very short considering that the foreign minister had disclosed that it would be a 4-page text.

The journalists accredited to this ministry today found out that high-ranking ministry authorities, including the spokesman, knew nothing about the communique until it was released to the media. In view of the developments it is believed that the Foreign Ministry's original communique was disregarded and replaced by another especially drawn up by La Moneda Palace authorities without the participation of high-ranking Foreign Ministry authorities.

ADM MERINO CALLS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

PY191531 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, navy commander and member of the Government Junta, believes that it is necessary to review some parts of the Constitution that require changes. Adm Merino specifically referred to the right to vote given to the soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces. He said that this is a mistake because the military institutions would become important organizations in the elections, which cannot be accepted. Merino pointed out that it is not possible to have politicians visit a regiment to talk to the troops during a presidential campaign.

Regarding the law on political parties and the law on electoral registration, Merino said that these laws will be given priority during the current legislative period. He added, however, that first it is important to resolve the differences regarding the number of members needed to create a political party. Merino believes that the laws on political parties and electoral registration will be approved this year. Adm Merino also said that it is not necessary for the time being to study the elections law and the National Congress law because, according to the mechanisms established in the Constitution, this is not an urgent matter. Merino announced that the legal body that again creates the labor courts will be ready next month because there is a logical and urgent need for the courts to resume operations.

Merino also referred to the commitment to full democracy.

[Begin Merino recording] The Armed Forces, with the support of the majority of our population, had to make a decision to put an end to the situation that was jeopardizing the institutions and to free democracy from the scourge that was taking us to the doorstep of Marxism-Leninism. [end recording]

Merino made this statement upon opening the regular sessions of the junta.

LABOR MINISTER MARQUEZ LEAVES FOR MONTREAL

PY171335 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Labor Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata last night left for Montreal, Canada, to attend the meeting organized by ILO. The meeting will be attended by representatives of several countries in addition to businessmen and workers. The 400 delegates from around the world will listen and also lecture on matters related to Indian and agricultural problems among other issues. The Chilean delegation is headed by Minister Marquez de la Plata, who will deliver a speech at the international meeting on 19 March. Other members include Normal Bull, Guillermo Medina and Lamberto Perez in representation of the workers.

BRIEFS

NEW NUCLEAR COMMISSION AUTHORITIES -- The following are the newly appointed authorities of the Executive Board of the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission: Major General Patricio Torres as Mining Ministry representative; Brigadier General Jorge Massa for the National Defense Ministry; Rear Admiral Sergio Altamirano and Brigadier General Luis Reyes as representatives of the president of the Republic. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Feb 86 p C 2 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA -- Nicolas Novoa Grohnert has been appointed new Chilean ambassador to Venezuela to replace Carlos de Costa Nora, who died when the Embassy building caught fire. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p C 7 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY -- Colonel Ramon Valdes Rosas has been appointed new Foreign Ministry under secretary to replace Colonel Humberto Julio, who has been appointed military attache to the Chilean Embassy in London. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 86 PY]

PLANE TRANSPORTING COCAINE, AMERICANS CRASHES

PA180403 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2148 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 17 Mar (EFE) -- A U.S. pilot was burned to death and another American was seriously injured when the airplane in which they were transporting cocaine crashed and caught fire.

Lorrine Dewe Hill, 34, was the pilot of the airplane that caught fire upon crashing near the Los Cedros Airport in Carepa, northwest of Medellin. In the same accident, American Donnie Preston suffered third degree burns.

Horacio Amaya Soto, director of Civil Aeronautics, said that the twin-motor plane with U.S. license N-2164-C crashed due to bad weather.

Amaya Soto added that the airplane was loaded with "a few kilos of cocaine in some part of the Uraba region."

MEMBERS OF AMERICA BATTALION CAPTURED

PA190416 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] While the search operation in pursuit of the America Battalion that earlier attempted to enter Cali continues, the 3d Infantry Brigade has presented detainees from other countries who form part of the group. The detainees were highly surprised by the intense armed activities in Colombia, although they openly admitted that they came to our country to receive this type of instruction. Here is a report by Mario Arboleda.

[Begin recording] [Arboleda] Guerrillas of the so-called America Battalion who belong to the Ecuadoran Alfaro Lives organization were captured by 3d Infantry Brigade troops during clashes in Valle del Cauca Department. We have here a photograph of Ignacio Neftali Pavas Murmachi, an Ecuadorean, member of the Alfaro Lives group, when he entered the country with his sister Luz Estela. Here he is shown with the guerrillas just as they were entering Colombia. Neftali Pavas Murmachi was killed in combat, and he is in the upper left part of this photograph.

The first attacks on the recently created America Battalion, formed by guerrillas of the Ricardo Franco Front, Quintin Lame, M-19 [April Movement] of Colombia, Alfaro Lives of Ecuador, and Tupac Amaru of Peru, was carried out in Valle del Cauca Department by the 3d Infantry Brigade intelligence service. In clashes in this area in the past 15 days, the guerrillas took control of the Jamundi mountains and tried to occupy the southern part of Cali; several rebels from other nations invited by Carlos Pizarro Leon Gomez were killed. Leon Gomez is now the top chief of the M-19 after the death of Alvaro Fayad.

Two of the rebels, a female identified as Luz Estela Navas Murmachi of Ecuador and Amilcar Trujillo of the Peruvian Tupac Amaru group, informed this station of the type of political-military work they carried out in their own nations and of their joining the America Battalion through ties with the M-19.

[Navas] In Ecuador I was linked to a political-military organization that intended to carry out a revolution there. We were sent here for training, but instead we were made simple fighter, and as we had no experience. Most of the Ecuadoreans were killed.

[Arboleda] Where were you when you were captured?

[Trujillo] I was at home.

[Arboleda] What happened at that moment?

[Trujillo] Well, the B-2 [not further identified] came and captured me and another companero.

[Arboleda] What type of weapons did you have?

[Trujillo] At the moment of [word indistinct]? Nothing.

[Arboleda] What type of weapons have you used?

[Trujillo] FAL rifles.

[Arboleda] Did you use these in Peru?

[Trujillo] No.

[Arboleda] What type of mission were you given?

[Trujullo] None. Only a platoon. My movement sent me to a political-military course. I thought this was a camp where military instruction is given, without clashes with the Colombian Armed Forces. I was mistaken. [end recording]

At the present time approximately 30 persons from the Alfaro Lives group in Ecuador, Tupac Amarus in Peru, and M-19 in Colombia are being investigated by the 3d Infantry Brigade.

VEGA REPORTS FAYAD PLANNED TO VISIT NICARAGUA

PA191948 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 15 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] National Defense Minister General Miguel Francisco Vega Uribe has disclosed that Alvaro Fayad Delgado, the commander in chief of the leftist M-19 who was killed in a shoot-out with special forces of the National Police, had planned to travel to Nicaragua. During the funeral of Lieutenants Pedro Vicente Alea Gil and Dario Fernando Cruz Ruiz and noncommissioned officer Ricardo Parra Ruiz, who were killed in clashes with the guerrillas in Valle del Cauca and Santander Department, the national defense minister said that Fayad Delgado's death is a hard blow to the M-19 and its subversive activities.

Regarding M-19 commander Alvaro Fayad Delgado's trip, Vega Uribe said that according to intelligence service reports Fayad Delgado was planning to travel to Nicaragua soon.

Explaining how the police located the apartment where the rebel leader was found, Vega Uribe said that in Colombia there are people who want peace and harmony and that one of them called the national police to report Fayad Delgado's whereabouts. It has been learned that Fayad Delgado had planned to travel to Managua in the next few days to attend the ninth international conference of the rebel groups that operate in America, Europe, and Asia.

The same sources indicated that the conference is directed by the Fidel Castro regime and the Sandinists. "Fayad was in Bogota to coordinate the travel of the delegates of the guerrillas who comprise the so-called 'National Guerrilla Coordinating Board' (CNG) and to direct the split of the "America Battalion' [into two fronts] in Cundinamarca and Antioquia," a spokesman of the state security agencies added.

REBEL 'SUMMIT' HELD TO FORM NEW FRONTS

PA191953 Bogota El SIGLO in Spanish 15 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Special forces of the National Police yesterday began a true "manhunt" in the search for at least 20 leaders of the leftist guerrillas who gathered in Bogota to analyze, study, and create another two combat fronts of the self-styled "America Battalion." Their plans became known after the death of top M-19 [19 April Movement] leader Alvaro Fayad Delgado. Spokesmen of the state security agencies disclosed that M-19 leaders Carlos Pizarro Leongomez and lawyer Gustavo Arias Londono are in Bogota. Together with Fayad Delgado they were to hold a "summit" with the so-called "National Guerrilla Coordinating Board" (CNG).

According to official spokesmen, the following are in the capital: Ernesto Rojas, commander of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL); Valentin Gonzalez, leader of "Free Fatherland;" Ignacio Arbelaez, military leader of the "Revolutionary Workers Party" (PRT); members of the so-called general staff of the "Quintin Lame" group; and leaders of the Castroite "Army of National Liberation" (ELN).

The guerrilla summit had been convened following an internal crisis within the CNG caused by confrontations among the rebel groups as well as mutual accusations of fighting without objectives and reports of many dead and wounded.

Official spokesmen, who asked not to be identified, reported that the whereabouts of M-19 leader Fayad Delgado and the presence of other leftist guerrilla chieftains in Bogota were reported by the self-styled "Ricardo Franco" front, a dissident wing of the "Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia" (FARC).

Two women and three men, apparently M-19 members who protected the M-19 leader, were captured during the National Police operation carried out at Building No. 22A-30 on 42C street in Bogota's Quinta Parades neighborhood, where Fayad Delgado and Maria Cristina de Rosero, wife of Colombian composer and singer Raul Rosero, were killed. It was also reported that important documents, now being reviewed, were seized and that for this reason searches for the rebel leaders throughout the city were mounted.

In addition to the Ricardo Franco Front reports indicating the whereabouts of the rebel leaders, the authorities confirmed that many citizens have called police stations to alert them to the movements of the guerrillas. According to security agencies, the CNG is trying to create two new combat fronts of the America Battalion in Cundinamarca and Antioquia.

OFFICIAL IDENTIFIES GEN VARGAS' SUPPORTERS

PA191555 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Quito, 18 Mar (EFE) -- Franklin Verduga Velez, political adviser to the Ecuadoran Presidency, today identified the political groups that supported former Air Force commander Frank Vargas Pazzos. Verduga stated that among those involved in what he called a "conspiracy against democracy," were the Broad Front of the Left, which he accused of being "the executive arm of international communism" in Ecuador. He also mentioned several leaders of the United Workers Front, the top Ecuadoran union, and Marcos Landazuri, one of the directors of the tribunal of constitutional guarantees.

Among the conspirators he included "a certain political party whose leader is sought by the law," referring implicitly to the Ecuadoran Roldocist Party, whose leader Abdala Bucaram, former mayor of Guayaquil, is a fugitive, accused of offending the Armed Forces.

President Febres Cordero's political adviser emphasized that these statements were being made solely on the basis of information disseminated by the local press. He said: "I am not inventing anything, I am just pointing out the particular [circumstanciada] attitude of all sectors who in one way or another have been part of this great conspiracy against democracy."

In conclusion, he added that all of the names mentioned "are members of extreme leftist parties and the regime's most belligerent opposition."

Meanwhile, legal proceedings were initiated Monday against Gen Vargas at the Vencedores Infantry Garrison, on the outskirts of Quito, where the deposed commander has been held incommunicado since last Friday, when he was arrested by government forces.

General Gonzalo Fernandez, retired, president of the Military Court of Justice, yesterday heard Vargas Pazzos' testimony, but so far no information has been released on what the former commander will be charged with or what progress has been made in his trial.

According to military law, Vargas is to be court-martialed [juzgado por Consejo de Guerra] and then prosecuted by the Military Court of Justice.

FEBRES CORDERO RULES OUT ANOTHER REBELLION

PA200126 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0015 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Quito, 18 Mar (DPA) -- President Leon Febres Cordero today ruled out the possibility of a new military rebellion and said that "the Armed Forces are solidly united and support democracy." He added that the rebellion headed by General Frank Vargas Pazzos -- militarily suffocated last Friday -- was "totally political," as its final objective was a coup d'etat.

"The government is calmly working with the people, and our democracy is stronger than ever," the president said in an interview with foreign journalists. He admitted, however, that "the rebellion will affect foreign investments in Ecuador," because, as he said "any chapter of violence helps chase away investors."

He added that the opening for foreign capital continues to be part of his government's policy.

"I am not going to change my plans," Febres said, adding that he will continue to guide the country "on the right path to give the people a better living standard, greater well-being, and more justice."

In his first meeting with the foreign press since the rebellion headed by Gen Frank Vargas, chief of the joint command of the Armed Forces and Air Force commander, which ended in an armed confrontation at the Quito Air Force Base, the president ruled out the possibility that there are any divisions within the military sector that may prompt another rebellion.

"That was a sad chapter that will not be repeated," Febres Cordero said and warned that "those who try to plot and alter the established regime will receive the punishment stated by the law." The president also accused the opposition of trying "to gain power through illegal channels," although he did not specify which parties or groups had participated in the military uprising. He admitted, in any case that "there are all kinds of things within the opposition."

He also stressed that a multiparty Congress commission with broad representation had mediated in the conflict that helped reach an agreement with the rebels who put down their weapons on 11 March. Two days later, accusing the government of violating the agreements, Gen Vargas began a second rebellion, which was defeated 20 hours later after brief but intense fighting in which four people were killed and 15 wounded.

Gen Vargas is in the hands of the law, and the government will not interfere with that," the president added. [quotation mark as received]

PRESIDENT BACKS REAGAN'S CONTRA AID REQUEST

PA190318 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0024 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Quito, 18 Mar (REUTER) -- Today President Leon Febres Cordero spoke out in support of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's request to the Congress for special aid to help the "contras", the Nicaraguan guerrillas who are striving to topple the Sandinist government. During an interview with the press, Febres Cordero said that the purpose is to balance the forces in Nicaragua a little. Trying to justify his request for $100 million for the contras, Reagan said that the Managua government is threatening the security of the United States and helping guerrilla groups in Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic. During a press conference with correspondents from international news agencies, Febres Cordero said that as far as Ecuador is concerned, Reagan's statement is "definitely" true.

"Definitely, there is Nicaraguan influence, and this is not a secret. We have proof that part of the Ecuadoran subversive group has been trained and is being trained in Nicaragua." Since early in this decade, armed clandestine leftist groups such as "Alfaro Lives" and the "Free Homeland Montoneros," which have claimed responsibility for assaults, kidnappings, and takeovers of news media, have been operating in Ecuador. Febres Cordero, who broke diplomatic relations with Nicaragua in October, said that that Central American country "is intervening all over the world." He said that antigovernment forces in Nicaragua can obtain support, just as those in power [the Sandinists] do. "The only thing this would do is to balance the forces a little," he said.

RELEASED PLRA LEADER VIEWS RALLY AS SUCCESS

PY190345 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 10

[Text] Mario Abdon Saguier believes that his proclamation as a candidate for the presidency of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] in Alfonso Loma was a success for the entire party and not just the group that supports him. Saguier explained that he was beaten up by several policemen while addressing the rally and later held incommunicado at the Interior Ministry Cordillera Department branch. Saguier was released at 2200 last night.

"The rally was totally successful, despite the repression. This success was not of any single electoral faction but of the entire party. Rather than being an electoral rally, it was an opposition rally at which democratic convictions were reaffirmed," Saguier said this morning at his residence after his release at 2200 last night. Saguier was arrested in Alfonso Loma amid violent police repression while defending his candidacy for the presidency of the PLRA. Saguier said that he was arrested by several police agents while addressing the crowd in Alfonso Loma on Sunday at noon. "Three or four of them grabbed me and started hitting me everywhere. Some fellow party members tried to defend me but to no avail. I was practically dragged to a police van where an officer literally kicked me in and then climbed on top of me and squeezed my neck in an awful manner. I was then taken to the San Jose Obrero police station, where I was held incommunicado until they took me to the Interior Ministry Cordillera Department branch in Caacupe," Saguier explained.

Speaking about the rally, he said: "I cannot claim the success of the rally for my group alone, it was a success for the party as a whole. Many people attended, and the attitude of those present was very proper. On the other hand, the rally was absolutely legal because we had obtained a permit through the Revolutionary Febrerista Party. This is not something new, we have done the same before, and the police always went along with it. It is not true that an attempt was made to fool the authorities," Saguier added.

He went on to say that "the police fully intended to interfere so as to keep alive the state of fear and terror among the citizenry and to prevent the people from adopting a militant attitude in the struggle for individual freedoms and the rights provided for in the constitution. The government wants the opposition to always be compliant and obsequious while the ruling party is unwilling to give up its arbitrary and bullying misuse of power. However, from now on, our reaction will be militant resistance."

Saguier also reported that all the persons arrested at Alfonso Loma were released at 2200 last night after undergoing medical checkups at metropolitan hospitals to see whether or not they sustained serious injuries. The following persons were released with Saguier: Celedonio Galeano, Gervasio Sanchez, Fernando Noguera, Irenion Rodriguez, Hermes Rafael Saguier, Benigno Galeano, Anibal Jimenez, and Juan Massi Guggiari. On Sunday afternoon, the police released Eccio Guggiari Brun, Hermes Roberto Lopez, and a man called Torales. They, too, were arrested during the rally.

Interior Ministry Communique

PY190226 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 11

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] The Interior Ministry this morning released a communique on the incidents that occurred in Alfonso Loma, Cordillera Department.

The document states that "on 3 March 1986 the National Executive Board of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party addressed a note to the Interior Ministry "to report that a meeting of fraternity is to take place on 6 March 1986 at the home of Comrade Celedonio Galeano, located in the Alfonso Loma District of Caraguatay, and that the meeting would last from 0900 to 1600. To guarantee that the meeting would be conducted normally and to control public order, the Interior Ministry gave the pertinent instructions to the government delegate of Cordillera Department."

The document states that "on Sunday, 16 March, from dawn onward the authorities observed that passenger buses arriving from various points throughout the country were heading for the area of Caraguatay. It was also observed that the buses were transporting militants of the liberal sector, who were identified by the party emblems that they were carrying. Police reinforcements were asked for."

Another passage of the communique states that in view "of this, the liberal leaders were warned that the Interior Ministry had instructed that a meeting of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party, as an organization with legal status, was to be held freely, but not a political rally organized by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, which has no legal status."

The document then says that "despite the warning, violent groups of people provoked incidents that turned into fights with the police."

"It is clear that on that occasion no one was wounded, nor "was anyone savagely beaten with gun butts," nobody suffered any "skull fractures," and no one was attacked by the police, as certain elements of the media have maliciously reported. It was the security personnel who had to repel the aggression of the agitators, who acted violently."

The sixth point of the communique states that "the medical examination carried out by Dr Eustaquio Roman, Dr Ruben Cabrera, and Dr Eduardo Schettina on the few people who were detained and who recovered their freedom yesterday shows that there were no injuries. This examination was carried out at the Caacupe Regional Hospital in the presence of the justice of the peace of Caacupe and the chief of police of the Cordillera Government Delegation."

In another point the document states that "the urge to destabilize, which is being encouraged by some irregular groups made up of politicians who have the intention of sheltering their actions behind a certain press that uses sensationalism and disinformation, is very evident."

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY192259 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 11

[Text] Dr Cesar Romeo Acosta, head of the Paraguayan Central Bank, said yesterday before leaving for a visit to Costa Rica, where he will participate in a meeting of the IDB: "Paraguay is obtaining increasingly lower prices for its raw materials, and in the long term this will probably create difficulties for the payment of our foreign debt." The chairman of the state bank added that so far the payment to international credit organizations is under control, "but we cannot foresee the future, because there are many difficulties in the world, particularly in the developing countries, due to the low prices paid internationally for basic commodities." Acosta emphasized that preventive measures will probably be taken before the difficulties to pay the foreign debt begin, but that ultimately, "all depends on what the government decides to do about the matter," he said. He added that this subject is not included in the IDB agenda.

SENATE PRESIDENT OPPOSES CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

PY192323 Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 19 Mar (AFP) -- Senate President Luis Alberto Sanchez has expressed his opposition to a military initiative to reestablish capital punishment in Peru to halt terrorism, while the authorities today reported new attacks by the Shining Path in the Ayacucho and Puno Departments.

Consulted by the Lima press on a proposal made by War Minister General Jorge Flores Torres, to consider a constitutional amendment to restore capital punishment against terrorism crimes, Sanchez stated: I am absolutely against it. Capital punishment would glorify them. It would made them solemn and majestic, because they (the terrorists) are ready to die. If they die solemnly and majestically it would be a victory for them, Senator Sanchez stated. Sanchez is also first vice president of the Republic.

The war minister had proposed the reestablishment of capital punishment at the beginning of this week as a form of defending the democratic society of Peru against Shining Path terrorism, which in 6 years of violent actions has caused more than 7,500 casualties.

Sanchez, who today began an official trip to the United States and South Korea, stated that his remarks on capital punishment are of a personal nature.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Remigio Morales Bermudez has reported that 40 Shining Path guerrillas attacked the community of Macalla in Puno, 1,300 km southeast of Lima, setting fire to and destroying houses, equipment, crops, and cattle. Morales Bermudez said he did not know whether there were casualties or not because the guerrillas destroyed the communications equipment. He added that this weekend he will travel to that zone of the Azangaro Province, where over the past few days Shining Path guerrillas began a wave of attacks destroying communications systems.

In Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, the authorities also reported a Shining Path attack against a brothel where the troops who are fighting against guerrillas in their stronghold usually go. The attack caused considerable damage to the house but no casualties.

In Huanta, about 60 km from Ayacucho, Shining Path forces dynamited seven power pylons leaving a dozen towns in that Andean region without electricity.

After the attacks Huanta woke up to find the red Shining Path flags with the hammer and the sickle in 13 areas of the city. One of the flags removed by the troops was 10 meters long and six meters wide, and was hoisted on top of the antenna of a radio station.

POLICE REORGANIZATION CALLS FOR MORE DISMISSALS

PY192118 Paris AFP in Spanish 1457 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 19 Mar (AFP) -- About 237 chiefs and officers of the police forces have been invited by the government to retire to comply with a new law that consolidates these forces under a single command, thus carrying out a process of continuous moralization. This information was made public by a spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

This new cut in the police ranks affects 114 officers from the Investigative Police, 107 officers from the Civil Guard, and 16 officers from the Republican Guard. These officers have ranks of lieutenant, captain, major, and colonel.

Proceeding with the reorganization of the police forces decreed by the government of President Alan Garcia, this measure increases to 1,837 the number of police chiefs, officers, and subordinates who have passed into retirement following denunciations of alleged immorality and corruption at the higher levels.

This new decision, made by the unified command at the request of the commanders of the Civil Guard, Investigative Police, and Republican Guard -- the three corps composing the police forces -- will be announced officially only after the president gives his approval. At that time the list of promotions within the ranks will also be drawn up.

Since the reorganization of the police forces, which began last August and continued through 6 February when the law unifying their command was promulgated, 1,400 policemen, 771 officers, and 629 subordiantes have been dismissed.

Although it has been said that the measure was routine since a given number of police personnel are invited to retire every year, official sources said that the new measure affects some police members with immoral reputations.

The government proceeded to reorganize the police forces in view of the many reports in which thousands of policemen were said to be involved in drug trafficking, bank robbery, corruption, and bribery.

During the reorganization process, however, several dismissed officers claimed to be innocent and requested reinstatement to their posts. Although it recognizes that some mistakes have been made, the government said that the reorganization was also meant to debureaucratize the police forces to make them more effective and that this goal was hindered by the excessive number of officers.

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' PLANE CRASHES -- Lima, 14 Mar (EFE) -- A plane with a Colombian license number crashed as it was trying to take off from a clandestine landing strip in the Peruvian Amazon jungle. The plane, taking off from Uchiza zone, the drug trafficker's "red zone", was transporting 600 kg of cocaine paste. Since the plane did not catch fire the traffickers immediately seized the drugs packed in plastic bags and removed the bodies of the woman pilot and passenger who died instantly. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1359 GMT 14 Mar 86 PY]

SANGUINETTI DISCUSSES MILITARY, TUPAMAROS

PY102018 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has stated that democracy was reinstated in Uruguay as a result of a political agreement with the Armed Forces. Sanguinetti made this remark as part of a statement that has been published in Buenos Aires.

Sanguinetti emphasized that the elections which gave rise to democracy 1 year ago were not the result of a crisis within the Armed Forces, as has happened in other countries, as in Argentina in the wake of the Malvinas war. In Uruguay democracy was reinstated on the basis of a political agreement between the Armed Forces, which at that point could be considered a de facto political force, and the political parties. These parties had offered a political solution, and this led to a political agreement, Sanguinetti told the English-language weekly ARGENTINE NEWS.

The Uruguayan chief executive went on to say that in view of this agreement we believe there is no room for what may appear to be a revanchist attitude, because the Armed Forces cannot be considered legitimate partners in an agreement one day and illegitimate the next, after the civilians took over.

Sanguinetti said that the decision by the Tupamaros to become a political party is a healthy step, but he ruled out the possibility that they would ever obtain any major support for their proposals. Sanguinetti said that the Tupamaros, who were broken up by the Armed Forces at the beginning of the seventies, never had much support from the people because they had always been an elite organization with no really deep roots among the popular sectors.

Speaking about the political agreement that he had proposed to the opposition, Sanguinetti indicated that he believes it would be beneficial for the country to have a political agreement that would even have some effect on the composition of the cabinet. He added that it is not a question of discussing ideological guidelines, which are clearly set forth in the Constitution, but of coming up with agreements on concrete measures that could solve the very real and specific problems the country is facing.

He made it clear that it would be easier to reach an understanding with the Blanco Party, his party's traditional adversary, because the Broad Front has a considerable Marxist component that makes agreement on economic matters very difficult.

Sanguinetti concluded by saying that the situation of Uruguay's industrial sector, which has yet to experience any significant recovery, is bound to improve.

BRIEFS

GDP GROWTH REPORTED -- Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino has reported that the Uruguayan GDP grew 0.5 percent in 1985, reversing the trend of the last 4 years. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 86 PY]

REUTER: MARCOS' ASYLUM REQUEST ACCEPTED

PA2U1228 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0725 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Panama City, 20 Mar (REUTER) -- Panamanian Government sources have said that Panama has decided to accept a request for asylum by deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda. A ranking source who chose to remain anonymous said that the government will probably announce the acceptance of the request for asylum for "humanitarian reasons." The source declined to give any more details and did not say when Marcos will arrive from Hawaii or where he will be staying. Marcos fled to Hawaii from Manila last month aboard a U.S. military aircraft.

A Panamanian military source told REUTER yesterday in an interview that "if Marcos wants to buy Contadora we will sell it to him for $50 million." He was referring to the island of Contadora, a tourist center where the late Shah of Iran stayed in 1980 in a luxurious state-owned hotel with a casino. The island has been for sale since last year.

Government and private observers noted that Marcos' wealth will probably influence his trip to Panama more than strictly humanitarian reasons. "If he wants to come, he will have to make some large investments," a source close to President Eric Arturo Delvalle said in an interview yesterday.

CONATO ENDS STRIKE, PLANS 1 MAY DEMONSTRATION

PA200038 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0010 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Jose Manuel Meneses, this month's coordinator of the National Council of Organized Workers, Conato, today announced a decision adopted by this organization after holding a strike for 10 days to protest the amendments to the Labor Code.

[Begin recording] After a long discussion, the national council of delegates has agreed to end the strike at midnight tonight. However, some suggestions were heard and decisions adopted as to the way the trade union movement will act. We will fight in a different manner. We have decided to hold a great national demonstration for dignity and national sovereignty on 1 May. On that day we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of this historic feat. For this, we will count on the participation of all the Panamanian people. In this attempt, we will continue to strengthen the finances of our National Council of Organized Workers and announce that a 24-hour general strike will be called on 30 April and the next day we will commemorate 1 May. [end recording]

CONATO TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT

PA191437 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 1

[By Lisette Carrasco and Flor Quintero]

[Excerpts] Conato leaders have warned that in view of the imposition of Law No 46, which amends the Labor Code, the "people-government team has been broken"; they will thus withdraw their support for the Delvalle government. At the end of the march [in Panama City on 18 March] in which the slogans were in open opposition to the government and the Defense Forces, which Conato accuses of "assassinating" worker Yito Barrantes, Conato reiterated that it will continue the general strike for an indefinite period and stated that the struggle "will be in the street."

During his speech, Jose Manuel Meneses, this month's coordinator of Conato, said that the workers have broken all ties with the national government, the National Democratic Union (UNADE), and the Defense Forces in view of the betrayal of the labor movement. Meneses said that the working masses "have not lost," on the contrary, the labor movement "has been strengthened."

For his part, Eduardo Rios, leader of the Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers, said that in view of the "betrayal of the Panamanian workers," "more sophisticated means of struggle" must be found. Rios told the workers not to give up "because now is when the struggle begins."

Ricardo Monterrey of the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, CTRP, harshly criticized the militarymen, whom he accused of "attacking" the workers. He said that at this time workers do not have "any point in common with the government and the UNADE parties." For his part, Gabriel Castillo of the Authentic Confederation of Independent Workers expressed his discontent over the attitude of the government legislators who approved the law amending the Labor Code, and he warned that "today more than ever, the working class has shown its militancy,"

Meanwhile, the CTRP in a resolution issued yesterday repudiated "the intimidating and threatening presence of the Defense Forces which, forgetting the teachings of Omar [Torrijos], militarized the Panama Refinery and put pressure on the workers of The Union of Workers of Food Enterprises in Nata and Los Santos, the port workers, the flour industry workers, the Petroterminal union, the Coca-Cola union, and other courageous organizations."

MSGR MCGRATH ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CUBA

PA190325 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 12 A

[Excerpt] In addition to the reports that Archbishop Msgr Marcos McGrath has given to ecclesiastic groups and the Panamanian community, many other reports have been published on the Cuban Ecclesiastic Meeting, ENEC, that the archbishop attended from 17-23 February. It is only natural that several questions have been raised, and it seems good to discuss these questions. The archbishop has this to say:

The question has been asked whether the new opening expressed by Commander Fidel Castro and the communist Cuban Governemnt will be real and effective or if it is a mere strategy to use the Cuban church as a springboard for greater influence on the Catholic Church in all of Latin America. This question, asked in editorials, various commentaries, and many church circles, can be answered like this.

A. The current opening is a small one. The major restrictions on the Cuban church are still in force. ENEC's expressed desire for greater freedom of expression as a church right still has had no response.

B. Although the granting of greater freedom to the church is not a genuine purpose -- or, as the Marxists put it, although it is not a permanent strategy -- but a temporary and possibly deceitful strategy, this does not affect the basic stance of the Cuban church or its bishops. In the ENEC document and its conclusions, it is repeated several times that the Cuban church's search for its religious rights and initiation of a dialogue with the Cuban Government do not entail a previous ideological compromise of the church. The church must demand its rights. The alternative is to be buried. In addition, the Cuban bishops have observed that the church has been presenting these proposals for 5 years and that the church will continue to hold this position, no matter what the government's answer. This indicates that the church does not change its stance and that time will tell what the government's actions will be.

COSTA RICA

ARIAS ON CONTRA AID, ELECTIONS IN NICARAGUA

PA192010 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez has said that the democracies of the region should get the aid, referring to President Ronald Reagan's Sunday speech in which he tried to justify his request for aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. According to Arias, this aid should be distributed among the democracies of the region.

The best way to fight communism is to improve the social condition of the people, Arias said. He suggested giving all that aid in the form of economic aid to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

Arias is of the opinion that Nicaragua should hold elections in which all the political parties have equal rights. According to Arias, Costa Rica has moral authority to criticize the electoral processes in other countries of the region because Costa Ricans know what free elections are. Let no one doubt this, he said.

Arias deplores the fact that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has turned his back on the Latin American who wants a political and negotiated solution for Central America. Arias was referring to Ortega's negative reaction to Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's proposal to hold talks with their respective opposition groups. By refusing to hold talks with the opposition, Ortega is only confirming the opinion of those who say that war is the only solution to the regional conflict.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO DECIDE DATE OF ARIAS TRIP

PA192251 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Excerpt] It is up to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Lewis Tambs to decide when Oscar Arias will go to the United States. Arias confirmed this report, referring to rumors that he had postponed his visit until after 8 May 1986. We have to decide what is more important, to go to the United States as the president-elect or as the constitutional president of the Republic, Arias said. The decision is in the hands of Ambassador Tambs, Arias added.

The United States will probably be the first country I will visit after assuming power, Arias said. This will be the case if I do not go in April, as was originally planned, Arias said.

I do not think I will make any trips abroad before May, not counting the trip I will make to Panama where I will meet with Panamanian President Eric Delvalle, who will come to my inauguration, Arais said.

GOVERNMENT DENIES SOVIET EXTRADITION REQUEST

PA192240 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] San Jose, 19 Mar (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government today refused, on the basis of faulty presentation, an extradition request presented by the Soviet Union for Ukrainian Bogdan Koziy, age 62, who has been described as a "Nazi war criminal."

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has sent a note to the Soviet Embassy in San Jose saying that the Soviet extradition request for Koziy, dated 13 March, "cannot be accepted" because it does not meet the legal and formal requirements. Gutierrez said that, anyway, his office merely receives the requests, and only the tribunals can make a decision about their contents.

Last week the Soviet Embassy asked the Costa Rican Government "to initiate the procedures" for Koziy's extradition, but Gutierrez observed at once that the note received at his office was not a formal extradition request. In the note, the Soviet Embassy said that Koziy is a former Ukrainian policeman who must answer in his country's courts for the deaths of several men, women, and children between 1942 and 1944 during the Nazi occupation.

Costa Rica and the Soviet Union do not have an extradition treaty, but the request for Koziy could follow its due course if the Soviet Embassy again presents its request according to Costa Rican law.

NEUTRALITY BILL IN DANGER OF DISAPPROVAL

PA200203 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Excerpt] The neutrality bill sent by the Executive Branch to the Legislative Assembly already seems to be in the process of being buried, although the Government and Administration Commission has just begun to hear the opinions of specialists on the subject.

Present at the commission yesterday afternoon was Fernando Volio Jimenez, former foreign minister and present deputy-elect of the National Liberation Party. Volio explained the reasons for his opposition to the bill.

Volio pointed out that the neutrality bill contains serious contradictions with articles that have already been established in the Constitution. He said that the agreements Costa Rica has signed and approved cannot be modified through a law. He cited, for example, agreements with the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR), the OAS, and other international organizations.

Deputy Odette Hector Marin, who presided over the Commission yesterday, said that Volio Jimenez's statement left the seven deputies of the Government and Administration Commission apparently resolved to vote against the bill.

Nevertheless, the legislator said, there are still other influential personalities scheduled to speak, such as former Presidents Jose Joaquin Trejos Fernandez and Daniel Oduber Quiros.

Meanwhile, Odette Hector Marin said that today they will hear the opinion of former President Rodrigo Carazo Odio.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES SUPPORT FOR REAGAN POLICY

PA191255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0250 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita said today that the Guatemalan Christian Democratic government "does not support U.S. President Ronald Reagan's policy against Nicaragua."

The foreign minister made this statement after learning about a report issued by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, in which he assured Reagan that "the Central Americans are in favor of the aid for the Nicaraguan contras."

Mario Quinonez Amezquita said that "at no time has President Vinicio Cerezo expressed that support." He added that "an alleged survey conducted in Central America is being used" as part of the U.S. Government's campaign aimed at obtaining congressional approval for the $100 million in aid for the "contras." Quinonez Amezquita said that "Guatemala will continue to promote its active neutrality by seeking negotiated solutions for the Central American conflict, and that therefore, it has proposed the creation of a regional parliament." Quinonez Amezquita added that "if Mr Habib said that the Guatemalan Government supports Reagan's policy against Nicaragua, he lied."

Second Deputy Foreign Minister Rodrigo Montufar also refuted Habib's report, particularly the part "concerning Guatemala's support."

"Guatemala does not support violence. We are in favor of peace and President Cerezo maintains his position in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic, which calls for cooperation and solidarity in our relations with Central America," he concluded.

Philip Habib, the U.S. special envoy for Central America, recently completed a tour to familiarize himself with the area problems. During his 3-day trip Habib met with Jose Azcona, Jose Napoleon Duarte, and Vinicio Cerezo, the Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan presidents respectively, as well as with Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez.

Claims 'Neutrality'

PA191857 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Guatemala has confirmed that it maintains a policy of active neutrality on the Central American conflicts. This comes shortly before the crucial vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on President Ronald Reagan's request for aid for the anti-Sandinists. While President Vinicio Cerezo was discussing the topic of the regional crisis with the Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi in Caracas, Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita today issued a call for a dialogue between the parties involved in the Central American conflict.

[Begin recording] [Quinonez] We issue a call for dialogue in Central America. Disagreements can be solved through dialogue. [Words indistinct] call to dialogue [words indistinct] dialogue will resolve the disagreements because, look, it is easy to see how armed conflicts begin, but it is hard to know when they will end. Something that one believes can be resolved very easily can turn into a very serious situation. We Central Americans cannot permit the start of a conflict that might involve Latin America.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Quinonez] It depends how you want to look at it. We believe that a pluralistic democracy exists when there is a legislative body and popular representation.

[Reporter] Is there a pluralistic democracy in Nicaragua?

[Quinonez] As far as I know, there is no legislative congress in Nicaragua, but there is constituent assembly.

Now then, I cannot state whether or not there is a pluralistic democracy in Nicaragua because that would mean intervening in the internal affairs of countries, and I am not interested in doing that. [end recording]

Diplomatically refusing to comment on the Nicaraguan internal situation, Foreign Minister Quinonez Amezquita said that Guatemala's policy involves a rejection of an arms buildup in the region.

[Begin recording] [Quinonez] Now then, in Guatemala's case, I can clearly tell you that we (?maintain) an attitude of impartiality in the Central American conflict and that (?so long as God) helps us, we hope to maintain it.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] For this decision of military aid?

[Quinonez] Look, we have said that we support any measure that benefits pluralistic democracy. We are not supporting any measure that represents an escalation in the process [words indistinct]. We cannot support any measure that represents an escalation, that makes the situation in Central America more difficult. Now then, what we do support is assisting so that there will be a pluralistic democracy throughout all Central America.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Quinonez] We do not agree with any military conflict. We think that dialogue [words indistinct]. [end recording]

ARMY CAPTURES REBEL COURIER, RECOVERS WEAPONS

PA200001 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The Army has reported that it has arrested a rebel courier who had been reported as a kidnapped civil patrolman. A communique released this afternoon by the Army's Public Relations Office reports the arrest of a rebel courier. At the time of his arrest, the courier was carrying weapons, ammunition, and uniforms. He is currently under the orders of the Chimaltenango court. The noame of the courier is Francisco Chita Osorio, known among the subversives as Anibal. According to the Army communique, Osorio was arrested at 2000 on 16 March in Saquitacaj Village, San Jose Poaquil, Chimaltenango Department, by soldiers stationed in Zone No 3. At the time of his arrest, the soldiers recovered two M-1 rifles, two 12-caliber shotguns, a 22-cal rifle, ammunition, and uniforms. The communique adds that the arrested subversive, Francisco Osorio, had at one time been a member of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, EGP. However, in 1981 he requested the amnesty offered by the government and later became a member of the Rebel Armed Forces', FAR, logistic group. More recently he traveled about the country disguised as a tailor. According to a charge presented this morning by Deputy Gomez Galvez, Chita Osorio was the head of the village's civil self-defense, however, the Army report states that he is a guerrilla leader.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA COMMENTS ON REAGAN 'WARMONGERING' POLICY

PA191739 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the president of the Republic, has returned to the country after attending the funeral of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

During his stay in that nation, Ortega met with political leaders who attended the funeral. Prior to leaving Sweden, the Nicaraguan leader held a press conference on the struggle that Palme carried out in favor of world peace and stressed that the new Swedish Government will continue it.

[Begin recording] The Swedish people and their political leaders will continue to fight, just as Mr Carlsson said, for the peace the world, Central America, and Nicaragua need so much. The struggle for peace will continue as long as there are those who advocate policies of force, hegemony, and terrorism. [end recording]

President Ortega responded to questions from reporters on Nicaragua's situation as a result of the Reagan administration's warmongering policy.

[Begin Recording] There is the Latin American opinion, clearly stated by the Contadora and Lima groups, which rejects the U.S. warmongering policy against Nicaragua. The opinion of Europe and the rest of the world is also against this Reagan policy. The dangerous and grave aspect of it is that despite the world's clamor against his policy, Reagan remains bent on continuing the war against Nicaragua, even threatening to use U.S. forces. [end recording]

ASTORGA DENIES REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONTRA AID

PA192235 Paris AFP in Spanish 2103 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New York, 19 Mar (AFP) -- The approval of the aid for the Nicaraguan contras by the U.S. Congress would represent a "slap in the face to Contadora and all Latin America," it was asserted today by Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the UN. The Nicaraguan representative, who has just met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, also said that the aid would represent "another step toward a direct U.S. intervention" in her country.

Astorga underscored that the eight Contadora and Support Group countries clearly stated last month in Washington their opinion against external financing of irregular groups, "but the problem is that the United States does not seem to be paying much attention."

She added: With or without this aid, "the contras have no possibility of winning; they are not a political option...they lack support."

Asked what Nicaragua will do if the contras get the $100 million President Ronald Reagan is requesting from Congress, Astorga said: "We will continue to defend ourselves ...relying only on our own forces."

"The Soviet Union is not interventing in Nicaragua, the only one who intervenes is the United States; we accept Soviet weapons to defend ourselves, just as we would accept them from any other country that might want to give them to us," she added, answering another question. Referring to the Central American countries' alleged support of the U.S. aid for the contras, Astorga recalled that the Central Americans' massive support for the declaration of Caraballeda represented support for a political solution and a refection of the use of irregular forces.

"Everyone has been quite clear on this," Astorga said. She specifically referred to the inaugurations of Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo. [sentence as received]

She also recalled recent statements by Peruvian President Alan Garcia in Buenos Aires, according to which Peru will break relations with the United States in case of a U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. Both Reagan and his advisers have referred to an alleged support in Central America and South America concerning the aid to the contras, to convince congressmen who are still uncertain.

During his address last Sunday Reagan showed a map where Brazil was included among the countries with guerrillas that are supported from abroad, particularly by Nicaragua, and the Brazilian authorities stated their surprise and annoyance to Washington for the second time in only 3 weeks.

BARRICADA COMMENTS ON REAGAN CONTRA SPEECH

PA191800 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Commentary: "Obando y Bravo's Slander Feeds Reagan's Hate"]

[Text] In a speech in which, among other things, he accused Nicaragua of posing a danger to the world, President Ronald Reagan leaned on slanderous statements by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to pressure the U.S. Congress into approving the $100 million he demands for his mercenary war.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo said clearly: "This government is totalitarian." Reagan said: "We deal with an enemy of the church," and painted a false panorama of the Christians' situation in the Sandinist people's revolution. Also false was his entire speech, in which he did not leave a single door open to solving the Central American situation peacefully. As a U.S. congressman said, Reagan made a declaration of war.

Reagan said that the Sandinists destroyed and set fire to the only Jewish synagogue, and that the entire Jewish community had to flee Nicaragua. He said: "The Protestants' Bible meetings have been interrupted by mob violence and machine guns." He also indicated: "Catholics have been beaten on the streets after attending mass."

All this, in addition to his statements about the revolution and "the growing danger that it represents for the national security of the United States," was based on one of the phrases that Cardinal Obando y Bravo said in Washington to orchestrate this Machiavellian campaign. Obando y Bravo said: "This government is totalitarian." His words were taken up by a reckless President Reagan who, more than the $100 million, is really asking for the U.S. Congress' approval to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

Are the Nicaraguan people's demands and accusations against Bishops Vega and Obando y Bravo irrational, wild, or politicized? Does the people's demand for a clear stance by the bishops constitute religious persecution, particularly those bishops who have not spoken up and who, through their silence, have continued to be accomplices of past and present crimes and God knows how many more in the future? Moreover, Reagan himself has unveiled the imperialist nature of and the true intentions of "Christian and peaceful initiatives" promoted by Cardinal Obando y Bravo, Bishop Vega and the Episcopal Conference.

"Last year we endorsed talks with the church's mediation (in Nicaragua)," Reagan said. He was referring to the so-called national reconciliation or domestic dialogue they are trying to introduce in Nicaragua, certainly with Obando y Bravo's mediation. Who claims credit then for these negotiations?

The real author and father of the reconciliation has come to the surface. How then should we describe Obando y Brava and Vega's attitude? Did they not know that Reagan is the author of the so-called reconciliation they enthusiastically suported? Reagan did not even say that the bishops had suggested, proposed, or discussed the matter. He clearly said: We endorsed.

Reagan described Nicaragua as a "growing danger" in Central America and that "this danger will not disappear; it will get worse, much worse, if we do not act now."

The U.S. President used arguments aimed at convincing the U.S. public, his allies, and congressmen that Nicaragua is a "Soviet ally in the U.S. mainland."

In a few minutes he weaved a concoction that moves one to laughter based on his words. He said that Nicaragua wants to become the "dominating force in the corridor between North and South America, endanger the Panama Canal, cut off U.S. communications in the Caribbean, disrupt the maritime system in the Caribbean, and then advance against Mexico."

Reagan then asked the U.S. citizens to imagine what would happen in the second chapter of this monstrous advance: "If this occurs, desperate Latin Americans would flee north by the millions, toward the southern U.S. cities, or wherever they could enjoy freedom."

Last Sunday Reagan made us appear as an international threat. "The revolution (Sandinist) would sweep all of Central America, Latin America, and finally the entire world," he said. However, his vigorous attacks did not stop there. He categorically added: "Nicaragua is a mortal threat to the entire new world."

The U.S. President said that he was only requesting a small portion of the budget to "defend the U.S. southern border." As we can see from the main report in this edition, the investments in the war against Nicaragua would surpass $1 billion. The $100 million would only be his license to try new and greater offensives against the heroic Nicaraguan people.

Among other things, Reagan also accused us of being an international base for terrorism. Specifically, he said that our country is a "command post for international terror." He said that he will not permit us to become a second Cuba or a second Libya "on the U.S. doorstep."

Resorting to maps and photographs, he tried to show that Nicaragua is dangerous for U.S. security, and that the revolution exports drug trafficking. Recently U.S. Government officials, such as DEA spokesman Cornelius Dougherty, said that "there is no evidence" of such charges against the revolution.

Reagan said that the Sandinists' main objective would be "overthrowing their neighbors," and mentioned the training of "guerrillas" of at least seven South American countries in Nicaragua. Last Friday, in a letter to the Brazilian Government, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams himself had to rectify the assertion that guerrillas from that South American country are being trained in Nicaragua.

Reagan even compared detachments of the French resistance who fought against fascism during World War II to the Somozist mercenaries. He was clear and dramatic in eavaluating and analyzing the situation of the counterrevolutionary groups. He said that they are currently short of supplies and defensive means to use against the Sandinista fighters, and advocated the delivery of aid to those groups.

Reagan ended his speech by directly appealing to congressmen, inviting them to go into history with him, by eliminating "the communist threat in Central America."

"The U.S. Congress could help prevent a situation that could become terribly dangerous for U.S. security, and if we fail now, history will hold us responsible," he said.

Reagan added: "What follows is a crucial test for the U.S. Congress: to give the "freedom fighters" -- mercenaries -- [puncutation as published] the aid they need to struggle against tanks and helicopters, or to leave them in the hands of the communists."

Reagan recalled the massacre in Greece after the so-called "Truman Doctrine," in referring to the "bipartisan" method that should be applied in the case of Nicaragua, because "if we do not act now, if we evade our responsibility, history will make us pay for it."

In a pathetic tone, Reagan said: "We have 3 more years in government, and it would be a tragedy to remain indifferent, while this cancer (Nicaragua) spreads, leaving it to my successor to make even more difficult decisions," he said, clearly expressing his intention of intervening militarily in our country as a solution to the conflict.

It has been Reagan's gravest speech so far. It has been the clearest one because of its contents. The alternatives have been clearly defined, and those who have legitimized those policies with their actions, and those who by remaining silent contribute to their implementation day after day, will be responsible for the consequences.

U.S. TAXPAYERS BANKROLL ESPIONAGE TACTICS

PA191408 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] Were we to make calculations, we would find that the cost of U.S. espionage actions, direct aid for the mercenaries, and the deployment of troops, war vessels, planes, and other sophisticated means against Nicaragua is truly surprising. All of this, cent by cent, dollar by dollar, comes out of the pockets of U.S. taxpayers.

Most of the espionage flights take off from bases at Fort Ord, California, and MacDill, Florida -- these are refueled in the air -- as well as from airports in Honduras, mercenary camps in Costa Rica, and U.S. bases in Panama.

In addition to TR-1 and RC-135 aircraft, the United States uses other more sophisticated aircraft in its air espionage against Nicaragua. The cost of these aircraft ranges from several thousand to several million dollars. One of these aircraft, the RPV, a small drone whose length does not surpass the average man's height and which is operated by either automatic pilot or remote control, flies at great speed to take aerial pictures and is sometimes equipped with small cannon of some firing power. This craft is difficult to locate with radar, and its image on the screen is confusing.

A squadron of these drones -- six to eight -- is based in San Lorenzo, Honduras. They are used not only for gathering data on the Salvadoran war, but to spy on EPS troops near the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. One of these advanced models crashed in Morazan, El Salvador, last year. The United States carries out four types of espionage against Nicaragua: space, air -- the most common -- naval, and land.

Recently the United States placed a satellite in orbit for permanent espionage, not only on Nicaragua, but the other area countries, as well. For example, it has been reported that since 1983 OV-10 Bronco tactical scouting aircraft, stationed at the U.S. base in Palmerola, Honduras, have dropped land sensors on Nicaragua's northern border to detect the movement of troops, vehicles, and other military equipment.

Similarly, T-3 Orion aircraft have dropped countless sonic depth finders into the Atlantic Ocean to surveil the arrival and departure of freighters.

It has been estimated that at least 26 U.S. frigates and other vessels spied against our country off Nicaragua's Pacific seaboard last year. These espionage movements not only involve lone ships, but also groups. Beginning on 25 February, for a period of 3 weeks, one of these groups was anchored off our coast. It was formed by the battleship Iowa, a cruiser, a destroyer, and even a submarine. Similarly, another group was anchored in the Atlantic, this one formed by an aircraft carrier, a destroyer, and a submarine.

Sphynx, better known as the ARN-24, has been carrying out espionage operations since November. A repair ship, it was turned into a true espionage base at a cost of $20 million.

This vessel completely covers the entire Nicaraguan radio spectrum and can even monitor telephone conversations and communications by telex or any other wire or wireless system.

The U.S. investment of millions for its war of siege against Nicaragua involves the construction of airfields and other facilities, such as the one in Mocoron, Honduras. This airfield would permit the nearly silent transfer of the 82d Airborne Division -- the same that invaded Grenada -- from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to this part of Honduras.

The $1 billion the United States has spent to bring more grief and death to the Nicaraguan people has continued to be paid for by U.S. taxpayers, while their own government tightens the screws to eliminate several social services in order to feed the U.S. warmongering escalation.

U.S. ENGINEERS BUILDING TROOP ROUTES IN C. RICA

PA192024 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 5

[Excerpts] A few hours after the normalization of Costa Rican-Nicaraguan diplomatic relations was officially announced, we were surprised by the arrival of 187 military engineers in Costa Rica from the Panama Canal area.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera on 14 February, through BARRICADA newspaper, had expressed his opposition to the Marines' arrival. "To Nicaragua, this is a new slap in the face by the Reagan administration to the Contadora and Caraballeda agreements."

The Pan-American Highway is the only ground path intersecting Costa Rica that passes through the capital. This highway includes a 260-km stretch in the central mountain range with dangerous climbs and downward slopes with heights ranging between 2,000 and 4,000 meters. Death Hill, which is covered with mist throughout the year, is located there.

The road is winding and narrow, full of abysses, and unfit for heavy traffic. The engineers will upgrade a stretch of a highway between the San Isidro del General turn-off and San Mateo that goes through the coastal region of Parrita and Quepos. This will eliminate the use of the dangerous stretch on the Inter-American Highway, cutting travel time almost in half, and, above all, it will be more secure. This route is practically at sea level and avoids passage through San Jose.

The United States is paying the cost of the project and for the protection and vigilance of the engineers that will be the responsibility of select troops of the Costa Rican Rural Guard.

We believe that it is absurd for Foreign Minister Gutierrez to say that there is no need for a legislative authorization for the engineers' entrance to the country because they are not the Armed Forces, but professionals "bearing no war weapons..."

In April 1984, the Costa Rican Government received a shipment of 4,000 M-16 rifles and ammunition, 200 M-79 grenade launchers, 120 M-60 machine guns and ammunition, 600,000 7.62 rounds, 18 K-90-mm recoilless rifles and ammunition, 24 8-mm mortars and ammunition, 23 50-cal machine guns and ammunition, a large amount of communications equipment, 30 patrol launches for rapid deployment, planes and Huey-500 helicopters, and 80 rural vehicles.

The "Bridge of Peace Operation" constitutes an alternate pathway for the transportation of troops and military equipment from the U.S. Southern Command in Panama.

This project takes place amid the United States' fear of a military defeat of the counterrevolutionaries. Patrick Buchanan, White House communications director, in statements for CBS on 6 March said: "We have two actions left: step aside and watch the Warsaw Pact take control in Central America or send the Marines."

Will the "Bridge of Peace Operation" be another path toward invasion?

U.S. EMBASSY REPORTEDLY DELAYED DELEGATION VISAS

PA191538 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] A parliamentary commission was supposed to travel to the United States to deliver a protest note to the U.S. Congress from the National Assembly concerning the request for $100 million for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries. However, in a delaying maneuver, the U.S. Embassy had refused to grant visas to the members of the parliamentary commission. Reporter Claudia Chamorro will give us the details from our press office. Go ahead, Claudia.

[Chamorro] Good afternoon. Today at noon the U.S. Embassy in our country granted [as heard] visas to the Nicaraguan parliamentarians who were part of a special commission of the National Assembly [words indistinct] using delaying tactics prior to granting the visas to the members of the parliamentary delegation.

The members of the commission, Deputies Macario Estrada, Carlos Cuadra, Daniel Brenes, Mauricio Diaz, Adolfo Evertsz, Juan Tijerino, and Allan Zambrana, were to depart for Washington today to deliver the protest note prior to the debates on financial aid for the contras. However, in view of the delaying tactics, the National Assembly's commission was unable to travel to Washington, and instead the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Washington, Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim, will deliver the legislative body's resolution to Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and to Senate Majority leader Robert Dole.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ESTABLISHES NEW COMMISSIONS

PA191547 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 5

[National Assembly resolution issued in Managua on 11 March -- signed by Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez]

[Text] Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the National Assembly of the Republic of Nicaragua, exercising powers bestowed on him by the National Assembly General Statute, and based on Resolution No 1, dated 21 February 1986, resolves to:

1. Dissolve the Subcommission for Constitutional Affairs and the Subcommission for National Consultation of the Special Constitutional Commission as a result of the creation of the Constitutional Advisory Commission [Comision Dictaminadora Constitucional];

2. Establish the National Consultation Commission, [Comision de Consulta Nacional] which will be made up of its president, Juan Tijerino Fajardo, and Luis Humberto Guzman, Luis Sanchez Sancho, Benigna Mendiola, Serafin Garcia T., Eduardo Molina Palacios, Allan Zambrana Salmeron, Eligio Palacios M., Nathan Sevilla, Isidro Tellez, and Hermogenes Rodriguez.

3. The National Consultation Commission will draft, approve, and carry out all plans, agreements, and tasks regarding the consultation on the national constitution. It will issue periodic reports on all these aspects to the Constitutional Advisory Commission.

4. All agreements made to date by the Subcommission for National Consultation are legally in force.

Issued in Managua on 11 March 1986

"25 years later, all weapons against aggression."

Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the National Assembly and the Special Constitutional Commission.

ASSEMBLY DELAYS NATIONAL CONSULTATION TO 14 APRIL

PA200333 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] We have received a copy of the following National Assembly communique:

Considering that those in charge of the national consultation commission at the National Assembly are currently coordinating actions with the country's regional governments to guarantee the effective organization of the open constitutional consultations; and considering that difficulties have been encountered in the necessary and systematic reproduction of the contents of the first Nicaraguan constitutional draft and the final report of the special constitutional commission that are the basis of the people's participation in the open constitutional consultations; and that a longer time is required for the preparation of even the minute organizational details to allow the people's greatest contribution for the discussion process of what will be the Nicaraguan constitution, the National Assembly's Public Relations Directorate hereby reports to the Nicaraguan people that Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the Constitutional Advisory Commission, has therefore made the following decisions:

1. The first open constitutional consultation scheduled to be held Friday, 21 March in Managua has been postponed.

2. The Constitutional Advisory Commission is hereby convoked for Thursday, 20 March, when the National Consultation Commission will report on the scheduling and organizational and execution plans for the open constitutional consultations.

3. The beginning of the open national consultation process is tentatively scheduled for 14 April.

4. The full program for the open consultations throughout the country will be announced during the first days of April at the latest.

Managua, 17 March 1986.

PCDN LEADER ON FOREIGN POLICY, PEACE PROPOSAL

PA181709 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN] will ask the National Assembly to summon Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, PCDN Politcal Secretary Eduardo Molina Palacios has announced. Molina Palacios said the reason for the request is that the legislators should be informed of the government's actions abroad. Molina Palacios said that the PCDN feels that Nicaragua's foreign policy is unilateral and in no way reflects the political pluralism that exists in this country.

In stating that he personally disagrees with the aid for the contras to be debated by the U.S. Congress next Thursday, he said it would bring only more deaths and destruction to our country. Regarding the peace plan that the PCDN has proposed to several Catholic bishops, Molina Palacios said that members of that party will meet tomorrow with Msgr Julian Barni and that afterward they will meet again with Bishop of Juigalpa Pablo Vega. However, he added that this plan, which has been kept in absolute secrecy, is already circulating within certain circles in Washington. He did not specify, however, what circles he was referring to, or who delivered it there.

BRIEFS

SUGAR EXPORTS TO CUBA -- Edgar Vargas of the Sugar Office of the Midinra, Argicultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry, has reported that approximately 660,000 quintals of raw sugar will be exported to Cuba. The official said that the Cuban brothers will pay higher prices than those in the international sugar market. [Text] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Mar 86 PA]

SOVIET PIONEER CHILDREN DONATION -- Soviet Pioneer children donated 17 tons of educational material consisting of pencils, notebooks, books, and toys to Nicaraguan war orphans. The donation arrived yesterday in the port of Corinto aboard the Soviet ship Harry Pollitt. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 4 PA]

COMMENTARIES ON REAGAN PROPOSAL FOR CONTRA AID

'Milestone' in U.S. Aggression

FL191520 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1141 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Station commentary by Juan Francisco Alvarez]

[Excerpts] During a recent commentary we mentioned that the White House is breaking world records in cynicism and lies in its frantic anti-Nicaraguan campaign. Last Sunday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan made a nationwide television appearance to state, among other things, that the Nicaraguan Peoples' Army was disguising itself as counter-revolutionaries to massacre and torture the Nicaraguan people.

The goal of the U.S. leader's frequent speeches is to appear to be a super-vedette [preceding word in English] in a tense anti-Nicaraguan, anti-Sandinist campaign that includes direct pressure on U.S. Senate and House members as well as outstanding social figures and, I repeat, includes extremely dangerous military maneuvers on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras.

During the last few hours troops, the majority of which are from the United States and some fron Honduras, began a new stage of military maneuvers very close to the Nicaraugan border. This action, along with House Speaker Tip O'Neill's statements that a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua is likely within the next few days, is a bad sign because this is becoming a plot to check and, in the worst case, break the Nicaraguan people's will for liberty and also to intervene in all of Central America and end Nicaragua's historic and revolutionary future once and for all.

On 20 March the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on Reagan's proposal. We will be attentive to this voting, and on Friday we will comment on this decision, which is an important milestone in the history of U.S. aggression against the entire world and especially against Latin America.

Reagan 'Suicidal' 'Madman'

PA191947 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 86

["What the Press Has To Say" feature by Maruja Garcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Sometimes it seems that U.S. President Ronald Reagan thinks he is still living in the times when he was a Hollywood star and had to play the role of a ruffian, madman, coward, or a suicidal person. This is the opening sentence of an article in the Cuban newspaper TRABAJADORES titled "A Madman of the Movies," which assesses the U.S. President's conduct toward Nicaragua. The article adds that a few hours ago Reagan resorted to insults against the Sandinist revolution with the intention of getting the Congress to approve an additional $100 million in financial aid for the former Somozist guardsmen. TRABAJADORES goes on to say that in his declarations, the Yankee President made use of base lies such as the alleged threat that the Nicaraguan revolution poses to U.S. security.

The newspaper explains that to many people, the months prior to the aggression against Grenada have returned, since in his anti-Nicaragua speech this weekend, Reagan used the false argument that the Sandinist authorities are building a base for Soviet submarines and the largest military airstrip in Central America.

The newspaper TRABAJADORES points out that Reagan went even further in his mad statements on the situation in Central America when he deplored the fact that President John Kennedy had not eradicated communism from Cuba, and he reached the point of paroxysm when he asserted that the biggest tragedy for the United States would be to allow the Nicaraguan cancer to spread.

TRABAJADORES states that such declarations from the president of the world's foremost imperialist power are obviously serious because they clearly indicate that Reagan advocates a direct military intervention in Nicaragua, which would mean a struggle against an entire people who would rather die than kneel. In addition, TRABAJADORES says that Reagan sometimes gives the impression of being a fool who is requesting aid for a cause that even many of his closest aides admit is totally lost. The article adds that suicidal traits are part of Reagan's psychological physiognomy. His excessive anti-Nicaraguan campaign could lead him to make the very serious mistake of invading Sandino's homeland, an act of aggression that would undoubtedly end with a U.S. defeat, as occurred in Vietnam.

TRABAJADORES concludes its article by saying that the Nicaraguan people would make the U.S. Marines bite the dust, and, moreover, they would be backed by a powerful solidarity movement from all corners of Latin America.

Speeches Pressure Congress

PA190429 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Note read by Maruja Garcia]

[Text] With a feverish desire, and disregarding the importance of the post he holds, the U.S. President over the weekend lunged at the Nicaraguan Government in a bid to obtain the $100 million he has requested for the bands of former Somozist guardsmen.

In Stockholm, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega accurately said that, according to the latest developments in Central America, the U.S. President seems to have lost his mind. Along with his mind, Reagan seems to have lost his dignity as a head of state and his sense of the ridiculous.

Shortly before his virulent speeches over the weekend, Reagan asked at a ceremony at the White House for the Lord's blessing for the counterrevolutionaries and identified himself also as a contra.

If the head of state had given this a little more thought, he would not have expressed such a concept, which in addition to likening him to murderers, places him in an extremely disadvantageous position before international public opinion. While opinions against his policy are growing in the world and the United States, the U.S. President insists on obtaining the financial aid for the Somozist bands and even threatens to use force under the pretext that the Sandinist government is a threat to U.S. national security.

Without doubt, there must be very few people who believe that Nicaragua threatens the security of the United States, which is a world atomic power, as Daniel Ortega said. However, it is evident that the current U.S. policy will only lead to sending U.S. troops to Nicaraguan territory and to unleashing a bloody regional war in Central America.

With voting in Congress only a few days away, the presidential speeches have been but part of the plan to pressure Congress into voting for more aid for the counterrevolutionaries. The current policy of the U.S. Administration does not seem to take into account that adventurism generally ends in defeat.

GRANMA: Reagan on Hitler's Path

PA191725 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 86

["The Cuban Media Review" feature, read by Mireya Barcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Terror against everything is how GRANMA entitles a long article referring to the rude campaign unleashed by Ronald Reagan to force the U.S. Congress to deliver $100 million to the former Somozist guardsmen. I can assure you, journalist Juan Marrero writes, that I have witnessed such an intense volume of propaganda characterized by slander, garrulousness, and misinformation only a very few times.

GRANMA said that the word contra has been used thousands of times by White House officials lately. On Friday Reagan himself, the commentator said, conceded something everyone knows: that he is a contra in body and soul -- one of the cruelest, by the way. Without any shame, the White House has become a staunch defender of the Nicaraguan contras. It was carried this defense out with an insulting campaign that must be discussed on Wednesday when the House of Representatives makes a decision on Reagan's request for millions, GRANMA stated.

The Cuban newspaper added that the U.S. President has used each and every one of his old, stale, and unmistakable pretexts to try to justify the implementation of his aggressive plan against the Sandinist revolution. These pretexts, GRANMA said, include something as ridiculous and unbelievable as stressing that the rejection of the $100 million will endanger the security of the United States.

Marrero immediately asked: What kind of threat can the small Nicaragua be for the United States, a country with 300 million [as heard] inhabitants, with the biggest technical and military power of capitalism, and with a 2-million man Army? Is there any comparison between that force and that of an underdeveloped nation with barely 3 million inhabitants, with a regular army made up of several tens of thousands, and with defensive military means?

GRANMA stated in this article that Reagan's latest propaganda show makes evident, in all its dimension, the obsessive trauma that he has in regard to Nicaragua. This propaganda show was an exhibit of weapons which, according to the White House, were seized from Salvadoran patriots who had received them from Nicaragua.

The exhibit, GRANMA explained, was set up at the State Department and Reagan, George Bush, Caspar Weinberger, George Shultz, and several counterrevolutionary leaders attended its opening. Reporting this exhibit, GRANMA continued, UPI, the U.S. news agency, wrote: There were 60 M-16 rifles lost during the Vietnam war, a Soviet hand grenade, and a portable radio that can be bought anywhere. Not even the UPI reporter was deceived and added the brief comment at the end of the report so as to leave no doubt about the presidential lie, GRANMA asserted.

In the same way that Reagan uses terror against Nicaragua, he is also using coercive measures in his relations with senators and representatives, GRANMA's article said. In this way, the commentary continued, he exerts pressure on them and tries to intimidate them. He views them as bad North Americans, tells them that they are becoming agents of international communism, and warns them that if they don't approve the $100 million, the government won't have any other choice than to invade Nicaragua militarily to save the United States from the red danger and preserve democracy.

Half a century ago, GRANMA concluded, there was a man in Berlin who acted similarly. His craziness led the world to a war that claimed the lives of 50 million people and caused large property destruction. Reagan is taking the same path Hitler took. Defeat is what is in store for him, regardless of the terror he may unleash.

Ortega Statements Cited

PA191852 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has expressed concern over U.S. President Ronald Reagan's mental health, and said that it is very dangerous for the head of an atomic power to lose his mind. Ortega's statement was published in the front page of the Nicaraguan daily EL NUEVO DIARIO. Upon returning to Nicaragua after attending the funeral services for Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Ortega said that the way in which Reagan defends his decision to continue his war against Nicaragua shows that the president himself is closely linked to the counterrevolution.

Meanwhile, international observers have said that the vehement manner in which Reagan insists on his campaign in favor of granting more aid to the Nicaraguan contras is close to delirium.

Nicaragua's Balzan Comments

PA191630 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] Freddy Balzan, executive secretary of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, has described as immoral the request made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan for $100 million in aid to Somozist bands operating against the Nicaraguan people. In a telephone interview for this station, he questioned the right which the U.S. Congress asserts to discuss the financing of a group of mercenaries who attack Nicaragua's integrity.

[Balzan] "We feel that it is immoral because, while Latin America is having big economic problems and social difficulties, a multimillion-dollar fund is being requested for criminal goals."

Balzan said that a political degradation is under way within the U.S. Government and this is shown in the language used by Reagan to accuse the revolutionary government, particularly Commander Tomas Borge, of the crimes committed by the counterrevolutionary bands.

[Balzan] "We feel that this moral degradation which is under way within the U.S. Government is the result of the widespread desperation in the Reagan administration because they are convinced of the Nicaraguan people's political and revolutionary firmness and the continental and world solidarity with the revolutionary process."

Balzan noted that U.S. imperialism is aware of the fact that the Nicaraguan people will not be intimidated by $100 million or even $500 million, which it may supply to the anti-Sandinist mercenaries.

[Balzan] "The U.S. Government must know once and for all that Nicaragua, just like the rest of Latin America, loves peace. Nicaragua and Latin America do not want war, but Latin America, the entire continent, will face this invasion and will defeat the plans of U.S. imperialism."

BRAZIL PROTESTS REAGAN STATEMENT ON GUERRILLAS

PA190443 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The Brazilian Foreign Minister last night called Alexander Watson, U.S. charge d'affaires in Brasilia, to protest against the statements issued by U.S. President Ronald Reagan about the alleged training of Brazilian guerrillas in Nicaragua. This is the second time that the White House has referred to the alleged training of Brazilian guerrillas in Nicaragua. Two days ago the Brazilian Foreign Ministry revealed a letter from Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, in which he describes a similar protest from Brazil as a misunderstanding. Abrams states in the letter: We are aware that there are no guerrilla movements in Brazil.

U.S. TROOPS LINKED TO HEALTH PROBLEM IN HONDURAS

PA191846 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] As if the fact that their country is the main support for U.S. plans in Central America was not punishment enough for the Honduran people, the constant U.S. maneuvers with the subsequent and abundant presence of foreign troops in the territory are beginning to cause serious health problems for the people.

A few days ago, the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras reported the sexual abuses committed by U.S. soldiers against children who live in Comayagua, which is close to the Palmerola Base, the main settlement of the joint forces that are participating in the military maneuvers. The U.S. Embassy in Honduras hastened to deny that its soldiers are involved in such practices, as if it was not internationally known that prostitution, venereal diseases, drug addiction, and all kinds of social problems proliferate whenever U.S. troops settle.

However, the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras emphasized: It is enraging that it was not enough for the occupation troops to prostitute and transmit some times mortal diseases to many women; now abuses are committed with children. This charge was specifically referring to the fact that six women caught AIDS, cases which were reported in Comayagua. In its ill-intentioned defense, which seeks to appear naive, the U.S. Embassy in Honduras said that there are no homosexuals among the troops. Who can guarantee that there are no homosexuals among 1,200 soldiers stationed in Palmerola, taking into account the high percentage of homosexuals living in the United States? The embassy's denial is not sufficient, especially if one recalls that AIDS appeared among the large homosexual population in the United States. The problem is such that Jorge Maradiaga, vice president of the Honduran Congress, has requested a thorough investigation in this regard.

It is time to set an example, he said, and added that to expel the U.S. troops would be to exercise the right to sovereignty which the people would applaud, and that it is about time that it were done. We can no longer put up with acts that hurt the dignity of our citizens and that affect the country's sovereignty, he said.

"Cabanas 86" will last until 30 June and will involve 4,500 U.S. soldiers; this means that the danger involved for the already precarious health of Hondurans will increase unless the local government takes steps to solve this problem.

Certain legislators have suggested that the foreign troops entering Honduras undergo a medical check-up by the Health Ministry, but even then it would be hard to detect infections that are rooted in the morals of soldiers who intend to defend ideals they do not have.

COMMENT ON JAMAICAN SITUATION, DECLINE OF SEAGA

PA171622 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Station commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Recent demonstrations in Jamaica reflect intense popular unrest in the face of the unbearable deterioration of the standard of living that has increased alarmingly since mid-1984, when the government of Prime Minister Edward Seaga decided to apply the economic adjustment measures demanded by the IMF. A wave of strikes and varied demonstrations of discontent have been stirring up the Caribbean island since last year in response to the laying off of approximately 20,000 public employees and a growing high cost of living, which is unbearable in view of the freezing of wage increases. These are classic measures imposed by the IMF as a condition for continuing to grant loans. The measures, which were established to reorganize the Jamaican economy and ensure that the country will fulfill its foreign commitments, are being implemented to the letter by the Seaga administration without regard to the cost that the people will pay. We must not forget that structural adjustments, as the prime minister calls them, were applied when the so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative, the pride of the U.S. President and a resounding failure for the already deteriorated regional economies, was underway.

Although Seaga has tried to convince his fellow countrymen that his austerity measures are the only way to overcome the continuous crisis being experienced, more than 50 percent of the Jamaicans oppose the measures and believe that their situation has worsened in the past 4 years.

Unemployment in Jamaica surpasses 20 percent and the cost of living, as we said, has drastically increased as a result of price increases; the country has an inflation of approximately 40 percent; in addition, essential services such as health and education have deteriorated.

The rigid conditions imposed by the IMF led the prime minister to state philosophically during one of his speeches that the choice is not between pain and pleasure, but between pain and more pain. This negative acknowledgment has reduced the ephemeral popularity of Seaga and his Labor Party, which was inflated in 1985 as a result of a financial blockade imposed by transnational companies on the government of Michael Manley.

The current socioeconomic situation of Jamaica is evidence of the difficult path that the labor government will have to travel until the established end of its second term in 1988.

The alarming dimensions reached by the deterioration of the island's economy are not only reflected in the high unemployment rates and higher cost of living, because basic export figures are also extremely low. Exports of bauxite, sugar, and bananas have been affected. This situation is compounded by a U.S. blockade on citrus fruits and vegetables under the pretext of preventing the spread of plagues. If we add the closure of important aluminum processing plants that have in turn resulted in the unemployment of their workers, it is not difficult to forecast very serious conflicts in the country.

The publicized stable Jamaican regime seems to be entering a phase that is auguring its end; President Ronald Reagan's Caribbean protege awaits the same fate.

DOMINICA

DOMINICA, FRANCE DISCUSS BORDER WITH MARTINIQUE

FL191717 Bridgetown CANA in English 1619 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 19, CANA -- Dominica and France have resumed talks aimed at establishing maritime boundaries between the French Caribbean Dependancy of Martinique and Dominica.

A Dominica delegation headed by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles is meeting in Guadeloupe with French officials led by Gilbert Guillaume, director of juridical affairs in the Foreign Affairs Department.

The four-day meeting began yesterday. Negotiations began in 1982.

Officials will also discuss a proposed fisheries agreement between Dominica and the European Economic Community (EEC). They are working out principles and rules to govern the reciprocal fishing activities of vessels from the EEC and Domininica in the fishing zones of Dominica and French Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Dominica, an independent CARICOM state, is located between Guadeloupe to the north and Martinique to the South.

HAITI

GOVERNMENT TROOPS FIRE INTO CROWD; 4 DEAD

FL201144 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Haitian Government troops opened fire yesterday on a crowd that tried to prevent the arrest of a bus driver. Witnesses say soldiers shot and killed four people and wounded another person in Port-au-Prince. Officials say the incident started when an Army captain detained and tried to handcuff a bus driver who had passed him by on the road. The captain called in reinforcements when the crowd tried to stop him from arresting the bus driver.

OPPOSITION LEADER ENDS DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT

FL192214 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 19, CANA -- Marxist Guyana opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan said today he was calling off his dialogue with the government. Jagan's People's Progressive Party (PPP) last year began talks with the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) on the opposition's call for a political solution to the country's economic and social problems. But the veteran politician said following last December's general election, which the PPP claimed was rigged, he decided not to resume the discussions. I think we cannot speak of prospects anymore, I told (president) Desmond Hoyte...around October last year that if there was no agreement on a political solution and elections are held and rigged, then all prospects for a political solution would be dashed and that is where we are at the moment, he told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA).

Jagan said the PNC also was not prepared to accept the PPP proposal of a national unity government and was being influenced by outside forces which did not want to see radical changes in Guyana.

In the meantime, he said, the united-opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) would step up its campaign countrywide through demonstrations and other tactics for reforms to ensure free and fair elections. We intend to fight every day for free and fair elections, he said. Principal demands include the establishment of an independent elections commission, drafting by the commission of the electoral list, an annual revision of the voters list, and counting of ballots at place of poll. The veteran Guyanese politician, who turns 68 this week, was passing through Barbados on his way home from visits to several countries, including the Soviet Union, where he attended the recent congress of the Soviet Communist Party. Asked why the PPP had decided to take up its seven seats if it was contending the election was rigged, Jagan said the decision was to show solidarity with the Working People's Alliance (WPA), a partner in the PCD, after the Marxist group decided it would accept its one seat. We were inclined to stay out, the one-time Guyana premier told CANA. He declined to say if the PPP would participate in future elections if the government does not grant the reforms sought by the opposition.

Asked if he was considering retirment in view of his 68th birthday on Saturday and his more than 30 years in politics, Jagan said: not at all. As to how much longer he will remain politically active, he said: I can't put a specific timetable on that because, first of all, I have no problems in health. Not at all. Nothing...and for my age I think Im vigorous and fit and the other thing, politics has nothing to do with age...

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO DELIVERS OIL; SHORTAGE EASES

FL201214 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Guyanese Government says it has received a shipment of oil from Trinidad and Tobago. An event, officials say, will help relieve the severe fuel shortage in that country. A spokesman for the Ministry of Trade said there other fuel shipments are expected this month. Guyana began rationing oil and electrical power in mid-February after a fuel shortage developed there. The shortage came about when Trinidad and Tobago began demanding Guyana pay for its oil with U.S. dollars instead of rice and other goods.

Meanwhile, a Guyanese opposition coalition has called for a day of protest today against the Guyanese Government's fuel policy. The state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper describes the opposition move as provocative.